/330 cont./

CCD Their methods. To die in narcosis. The medicine man in heaven. Tobacco. Conjuration of the weather.

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* 171 131 The boundaries between the regions of the tribes are natural ones. "This brook belongs to the neighboring tribe," we were regularly informed along the way. The one bank of the Kulisehu, for example, belonged to the Nahuquá, the other to the Mehinaků [226] /Mehinacu/. Fishing with bow and arrow on the river was open to everyone.

* 171 ● 422 [428] The plantings were common property. Everyone had his personal property in the house, even the women, who, we saw, often objected to having it given to us; it was handed down to one's children, sons and daughters. We often observed, however, [422] that persons to whom we had given beads, etc. were obliged to hand them over to the chief.

* 171 422 The power of the chief was not great. In all the larger villages there were several chiefs who lived in different houses; in dealings with us, there was always only one who appeared as representative. "Representation" was the most important obligation during peacetime. The chief directed the business connected with planting, he saw to it that the necessary supply of flour was put away, he had the beijús baked and the drinks prepared for all festive occasions and for the visits of strangers. He was apparently a family-father in greater style, but could not be very thrifty if he was concerned about the esteem of his fellow citizens, to say nothing of his neighboring tribesmen. Thus, the chief of the first Batovy village was "kurípa," bad = stingy. He had only a few [519] beijús baked for the guests. Stinginess is regarded as the ugliest trait. This type of rule must be difficult, however. Antonio told me about a certain João Cadete in the Paranatinga village, who was in line to become chief, but preferred to emigrate "com medo de tratar gente," for fear of having to entertain people, [421] [426] /331/ so Felipe took his place. If the community is dissatisfied with its chief, it knows a remedy: it breaks away from him and simply moves to another place. The office is hereditary, hence